

J.C. Watts, Jr.
Chairman
4th District, Oklahoma

House Meets at 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 1906—FY 2000 Agriculture Appropriations Act

H.R. 1259—Social Security and Medicare Safe Deposit Box Act

H.R. 1905—FY 2000 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act



H.R. 1906—FY 2000 Agriculture Appropriations Act

Floor Situation: The House will consider H.R. 1906 as its first order of business today. Yesterday, the House completed general debate and began considering amendments under an open rule. The rule waives House rules that (1) require that committee reports be available three days before consideration; (2) prohibit consideration of legislation within the Budget Committee's jurisdiction unless reported by the Budget Committee; and (3) prohibit unauthorized or legislative provisions in an appropriations measure. It accords priority in recognition to members who have their amendments pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: The bill appropriates \$60.8 billion in new FY 2000 budget authority for agriculture programs—\$834 million less than last year (FY 1999 agriculture funding included \$5.9 billion in emergency spending from the FY 1999 Omnibus Appropriations Act, *P.L. 105-277*) and \$6 billion less than the president's request. Excluding emergency spending from the previous year, this year's appropriation increases agriculture spending by nearly \$6 billion. When scorekeeping adjustments are taken into account, the bill provides \$47 billion for mandatory programs (almost 80 percent of the total) and almost \$14 billion for discretionary programs.

Specifically, H.R. 1906 provides (1) \$20.1 billion for agricultural programs in FY 2000 (\$5.6 billion more than last year); (2) \$800 million for conservation programs (\$6.9 million more than last year) (3) \$2.1 billion for rural economic and community development programs (a \$39.7 million decrease); (4) \$35.5

billion for domestic food programs (\$546.5 million less than last year); (5) \$1.2 billion for foreign assistance programs (a \$36.5 million decrease); and (6) \$1.2 billion for the FDA and related agencies (\$123.6 million more than last year).

Much of the funding in this bill goes toward (1) food stamps (\$21.6 billion); (2) the Food and Drug Administration (\$1.1 billion); (3) child nutrition programs (\$9.5 billion); (4) the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (\$997 million); and (5) the supplemental nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC, \$4 billion).

In addition, the bill increases funding for agriculture credit programs by \$723.8 million, Rural Housing loan authorizations by \$581 million, Food Safety Inspection Service by \$36 million, and Child Nutrition Programs by \$370 million.

CBO estimates that enactment will result in outlays of \$47 billion in FY 2000, \$4.3 billion in FY 2001, \$593 million in FY 2002, \$329 million in FY 2003, and \$457 million in FY 2004 and beyond. The bill was submitted by Mr. Skeen and was reported by the Appropriations Committee by voice vote on May 19, 1999.

Views: The Republican leadership supports passage of H.R. 1906. The president notes that the bill is nearly \$600 million below his request and urges the House to consider enacting his proposed user fee increases to meet his funding requests for programs such as the food safety initiatives, WIC, EQIP, and the Farmland Protection Program.

Amendments: At press time, the *Legislative Digest* was aware of the following amendments to H.R. 1906:

Mr. Bass may offer an amendment (#3) to reduce funding for salaries and expenses for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service by \$7 million from the bill's current level of \$444 million. **Staff Contact:** *James Martin, x5-5206*

Mr. Chabot may offer an amendment (#17) to prohibit new allocations under the market access program (MAP). The amendment also prohibits the use of funds for salaries of MAP personnel. MAP provides grants to businesses and trade associations to stimulate exports. The business may promote a generic U.S. industry (e.g., beef), in which case MAP covers 50 percent of the project cost, or the product of an individual company (e.g., a branded product), in which case MAP contributes 10 percent. **Contact:** *x5-2216*

Mr. Coburn may offer a series of amendments to reduce agriculture programs to their FY 1999 levels. Specifically, he may offer amendments to decrease funding for:

- * the Agriculture Research Service by \$50.9 million from \$836.4 million;
- * the Agriculture Research Service, buildings and facilities account by \$4.5 million from \$44.5 million;
- * salaries and expenses for the Boll Weevil program under the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service by the entire amount of \$16.2 million;
- * the Agriculture Marketing Service by \$321,000 from \$49.2 million;
- * the Food Safety and Inspections Service by \$36 million from \$653 million;

- * the State Mediation Grants by \$2 million from \$4 million; and
- * the Risk Management Agency by \$6.7 million from \$70.7 million. **Staff Contact: Neil Bradley, x5-2701**

Mr. Coburn may offer a series of amendments to eliminate targeted funding within the appropriation for Research and Education. Specifically, the amendments eliminate the following earmarked funding:

- * \$400,000 for the Food Marketing Policy Center in Connecticut;
- * \$320,000 for the fruit and vegetable market analysis in Arizona and Missouri;
- * \$212,000 for the generic commodity promotion, research, and evaluation in New York (the bill, however, currently funds the program at \$198,000);
- * \$1 million for global change research;
- * \$127,000 for global marketing support service in Arizona;
- * \$250,000 for International Agriculture Market Structures and Institutions in Kentucky;
- * \$300,000 for sustainable agriculture research in California;
- * \$5.1 million for wood utilization research in Oregon, Mississippi, North Carolina, Minnesota, Maine, Michigan, Idaho, and Tennessee;
- * \$300,000 for wool research in Texas, Montana, and Wyoming;
- * \$4.6 million for markets, trade, and development;
- * \$300,000 for the National Center for Peanut Competitiveness;
- * \$800,000 for the Food and Agriculture Policy Institute in Iowa and Missouri;
- * \$1 million for the Viticulture Consortium in New York and California;
- * \$1.5 million for precision agriculture research in Kentucky and Mississippi;
- * \$500,000 for ecosystems in Alabama;
- * \$250,000 for floriculture in Hawaii;
- * \$220,000 for low-bush blueberry research in Maine;
- * \$148,000 for Delta rural revitalization in Mississippi;
- * \$127,000 for multi-cropping strategies for aqua-culture in Hawaii;
- * \$200,000 for the Center for Rural Studies in Vermont;
- * \$200,000 for cotton research in Texas;
- * \$3.4 million for shrimp aqua-culture in Arizona, Hawaii, Mississippi, Maine, and South Carolina; and
- * \$583,000 for Mississippi Valley State University. **Staff Contact: Neil Bradley, x5-2701**

Mr. Coburn may offer a series of amendments to reduce funding for conservation programs to FY 1999 levels (unless otherwise specified). Specifically, he may offer amendments to decrease funding for:

- * conservation operations by \$13 million from \$654.2 million;
- * watershed and flood prevention operations by \$16 million from \$99.4 million to match the president's request (this program recently received \$95 million in supplemental appropriations); and
- * resource conservation and development by \$265,000 from \$35.3 million.

Staff Contact: Neil Bradley, x5-2701

Mr. Coburn may offer a series of amendments to reduce funding for rural development programs to FY 1999 levels. Specifically, he may offer amendments to reduce funding for:

- * the Rental Assistance Program by \$3,000 from \$577.5 million;
- * Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants by \$2 million from \$28 million;
- * Rural Housing Assistance Grants by \$9 million from \$50 million;
- * Rural Cooperative Development Grants by \$2.7 million from \$6 million; and
- * Rural Utilities Service, Salaries and Expenses by \$2.2 million from \$34.1 million.

Staff Contact: Neil Bradley, x5-2701

Mr. Coburn may offer an amendment to decrease funding for the general sales manager for the Foreign Agricultural Service by \$1.8 million from \$142.3 million. **Staff Contact: Neil Bradley, x5-2701**

Mr. Coburn may offer a series of amendments to decrease funding for programs within the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Specifically, he may offer amendments to decrease funding for:

- * FDA salaries and expenses in the tobacco program by \$34 million (effectively eliminating the program);
- * FDA buildings and facilities by \$20.4 million from \$31.8 million; and
- * the Commodity Futures Trading Commission by \$4 million from \$65 million.

Staff Contact: Neil Bradley, x5-2701

Mr. Coburn may offer a series of amendments to prohibit any of the bill's funding from being spent on certain programs. Specifically, the amendments prohibit the use of funds for:

- * agricultural law research;
- * agricultural telecommunications;
- * the American Heritage Rivers Initiative;
- * Boll Weevil programs;
- * the Center for Rural Studies;
- * cotton research;
- * delta rural revitalization;
- * ecosystems research;
- * floriculture research;
- * the Food and Agriculture Policy Institute;
- * the Food Marketing Policy Center;
- * the generic commodity promotion, research, and evaluation program;
- * global change;
- * the Global Marketing Support Service;
- * increasing the number of contract employees for USDA;
- * the International Agriculture Market Structures and Institutions;
- * low-bush blueberry research;
- * multi-cropping strategies for aqua-culture;
- * the National Center for Peanut Competitiveness;
- * the National Rural Behavioral Health Center;
- * a peanut price support loan rate greater than a quota of \$550 per ton for peanuts;
- * peanut quality research;

- * personnel who carry out the Commodity Credit Corporation's market promotion program;
- * personnel who carry-out the Market Access Program;
- * precision agriculture research;
- * promoting the sale or export of alcohol or alcoholic beverages;
- * promoting the sale or export of tobacco products;
- * research laboratories at Prosser, WA and Mandan, ND;
- * shrimp aqua-culture research;
- * sustainable agriculture programs in California;
- * the U.S. Man and Biosphere Program;
- * the Viticulture Consortium; and
- * wood utilization research.

Staff Contact: Neil Bradley, x5-2701

Mr. Coburn may offer a series of amendments to prohibit funds to create new employment positions within the Department of Agriculture. Specifically, the amendments prohibit the use of funds for any new positions in the following departments:

- * Agriculture Marketing Service;
- * Agriculture Research Service;
- * Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service;
- * Commodity Futures Trading Commission;
- * Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service;
- * Departmental Administration;
- * Economic Research Service;
- * Foreign Agricultural Service and General Sales Manager;
- * Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration;
- * National Agriculture Statistics Service;
- * Natural Resources Conservation Service;
- * Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration;
- * Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations;
- * Office of Budget and Program Analysis;
- * Office of the Chief Economist;
- * Office of the Chief Financial Officer;
- * Office of the Chief Information Officer;
- * Office of Communications;
- * Office of the General Counsel;
- * Office of the Secretary;
- * Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs;
- * Office of the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment;
- * Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics;
- * Office of the Under Secretary for Rural Development;
- * Rural Assistance Program;
- * Rural Business Cooperative Service;
- * Rural Community Advancement Program;
- * Rural Housing Service; and
- * Rural Utilities Service.

Staff Contact: Neil Bradley, x5-2701

Mr. Coburn may offer an amendment to prohibit the use of any funding for FDA approval of any drugs used to chemically induce abortions. *Staff Contact: Neil Bradley, x5-2701*

Mr. DeFazio and Mr. Bass may offer an amendment (#5) to reduce funding for the Wildlife Services program for lethal predator control by \$7 million, which funds efforts to control the population of wild animals that prey on livestock. *Staff Contact: Carrie Lynch (DeFazio), x5-6416; James Martin (Bass), x5-5206*

Ms. Kaptur may offer an amendment (#18) to allow the Agriculture Secretary to transfer up to \$7 million from the \$1.2 billion appropriated for the Rural Housing Insurance Fund for outreach for socially disadvantaged farmers. The Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (*P.L. 101-624*) authorized grants for community-based organizations to provide education or agriculture-related services to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. The bill currently provides \$3 million for outreach for socially disadvantaged farmers under Title I. *Staff Contact: Bobbi Jeanquart, x5-4146*

Mrs. Meek may offer an amendment (#6) to prohibit funds in the bill from being used to import foreign meat or poultry unless the Agriculture Secretary deems that the country's inspection system provides a level of safety "equivalent" to that provided by the U.S. *Staff Contact: John Schelble, x5-4506*

Mrs. Meek may offer an amendment (#7) to prohibit funds in the bill from being used to import any foreign meat or meat food product in violation of the Federal Meat Inspection Act or any foreign poultry or poultry food product in violation of the Poultry Products Inspection Act. *Staff Contact: John Schelble, x5-4506*

Mr. Nethercutt may offer an amendment to prohibit the president from restricting exports of food or other agriculture products (including fertilizer), medicines, or medical supplies or equipment except to preserve our national security. This amendment applies only to private commercial exports not subject to federal guarantees or direct credit. *Contact: x5-2006*

Mr. Sanders may offer an amendment (#9) to increase funding for the commodity supplemental food program (CSFP) by \$5 million. The bill currently provides \$96 million for CSFP. *Staff Contact: Danielle LeClair, x5-4115*

Mr. Sanders may offer an amendment (#10) to increase funding for the commodity supplemental food program by \$7 million above the current appropriation of \$96 million. *Staff Contact: Danielle LeClair, x5-4115*

Mr. Sanders may offer an amendment (#11) to increase funding by \$2 million for competitive grant programs for elementary and secondary schools to work with local farmers to purchase locally-grown foods. The amendment offsets this amount by decreasing funding for the general sales manager of the Foreign Agriculture Service by an equal amount. *Staff Contact: Danielle LeClair, x5-4115*

Mr. Sanders may offer an amendment (#12) to increase funding for the rural community advancement program by \$3 million (the bill currently provides \$666.1 million) and offsets this amount by reducing funding for ocean freight differential grants. *Staff Contact: Danielle LeClair, x5-4115*

Mr. Sanders may offer an amendment (#13) to increase funding for the commodity assistance program by \$10 million and offset the increase by decreasing funding for the Agricultural Research Service by an equal amount. **Staff Contact:** *Danielle LeClair, x5-4115*

Mr. Sanders may offer an amendment (#14) to increase funding for the commodity assistance program by \$5 million and offset this amount by decreasing funding for the Agricultural Research Service by an equal amount. **Staff Contact:** *Danielle LeClair, x5-4115*

Mr. Sanford may offer an amendment (#15) to prohibit the use of funds for salaries and expenses of USDA personnel who issue any federal loans to sugar beet or sugar cane processors. **Contact:** *x5-3176*

Mr. Traficant may offer an amendment (#16) to require that funds authorized by the bill be spent in compliance with the Buy American Act. **Contact:** *x5-5261*

Mr. Walsh may offer an amendment to prohibit the use of funds to implement new USDA milk marketing orders. Federal milk marketing orders require processors to pay a minimum price for milk based on how the milk is used. The 1996 farm bill (*P.L. 104-127*) requires USDA to issue a final rule to change the federal milk order pricing system and consolidate the number of marketing order regions from 31 to 11. USDA's proposed rule—which will become effective on October 1, 1999, if approved by two-thirds of dairy farmers within each proposed region—will replace milk's basic price formula with a market-determined price and will reduce mandated prices in many orders in the East, Southwest, and West. In 1997, six New England states entered into the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact, which enables dairy farmers in those states to set higher prices than those guaranteed by the federal government. The Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact will be dissolved once the USDA implements the milk marketing orders. **Staff Contact:** *Ron Anderson, x5-3701*

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #15, May 21, 1999.



H.R. 1259—Social Security and Medicare Safe Deposit Box Act

Floor Situation: The House will consider H.R. 1259 after it completes consideration of H.R. 1906. On Monday, the Rules Committee granted a closed rule that provides two hours of general debate equally divided between the chairmen and ranking members of the Budget, Rules, and Ways & Means Committees. The rule self-executes a technical amendment into the base text of the bill. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: H.R. 1259 amends the 1974 Congressional Budget Act (*P.L. 93-344*) to establish a “lock box” mechanism to ensure that Social Security surpluses are not spent on other government programs—or for tax cuts—by creating parliamentary obstacles and establishing new budget procedures. In doing so, the measure protects the Social Security trust fund by setting aside \$1.8 trillion in cumulative budget surpluses over the next 10 years for Social Security and Medicare. Specifically, the bill:

- * establishes a parliamentary point of order against any budget resolution that establishes an on-budget deficit (i.e., calls for using funds from the Social Security surpluses) in any fiscal

year. Under current rules, the House may waive the point of order by a simple majority vote. The Senate may override the point of order by a 60-vote majority;

- * establishes a point of order against any legislation—including all spending initiatives or tax cuts—that use funds from the Social Security surpluses;
- * prohibits the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), or any other federal government agency from including Social Security surpluses in federal budget totals when publishing official documents (currently, budget documents prepared by OMB and CBO display budget totals with and without Social Security); and
- * allows funds reserved in the lock box to be used only for legislation to “enhance retirement security” (i.e., Social Security and Medicare reform legislation).

CBO did not complete a cost estimate on the measure. The bill was introduced by Messrs. Herger and Shaw and was not reported by a House committee.

Views: The Republican leadership supports passage of the measure. An official Clinton Administration viewpoint was unavailable at press time.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #15, May 21, 1999.



H.R. 1905—FY 2000 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act

Floor Situation: The House may consider H.R. 1905 after it completes consideration of H.R. 1259. Appropriations bills are privileged and may be considered anytime three days after they are filed. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted a structured rule providing for one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Appropriations Committee. The rule makes in order one amendment by Messrs. Camp, Roemer, and Upton. In addition, the rule waives House rules prohibiting unauthorized appropriations, legislative measures in an appropriations bill, and reappropriations. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: H.R. 1905 appropriates \$1.9 billion for the House of Representatives and other legislative branch operations, \$135 million less than last year. Specifically, the bill provides (1) \$769 million for the House of Representatives (a \$28.5 million increase over the FY 1999 level); (2) \$98.8 million for joint functions of the House and Senate (a \$106.1 million decrease from last year); and (3) \$738.9 million for related agencies, such as the Library of Congress and the non-congressional work of the Government Printing Office (a \$37.2 million increase over last year). The bill does not include spending for the operations of the Senate. This year, the Senate has already completed action on its version of the legislative branch appropriations, which appropriates \$574.9 million for the Senate.

CBO estimates that enactment will result in discretionary outlays of \$1.7 billion in FY 2000, \$177 million in FY 2001, \$26 million in FY 2002, \$9 million in FY 2003, and \$4 million in FY 2004. The bill was submitted by Mr. Taylor and was reported by the Appropriations Committee by voice vote on May 20, 1999.

Views: The Republican leadership supports passage of H.R. 1905. An official Clinton Administration view was unavailable at press time.

Amendments: The structured rule makes in order the following amendment to H.R. 1905, to be debated for the amount of time specified below.

Messrs. Camp, Roemer, and Upton will offer an amendment, debatable for 20 minutes, mandating that any money not spent for members' representational allowances for FY 2000 be deposited in the U.S. Treasury for deficit or debt reduction. It also requires that amounts deposited in the Treasury by individual members and the House as a whole are published at the end of each session of Congress in the *Congressional Record*. **Staff Contact: Jasper Thomson, x5-3561**

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #15, May 21, 1999.



PLEASE NOTE: UNDER AN OPEN RULE, MEMBERS MAY OFFER NEW AMENDMENTS TO A BILL AT ANY TIME, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY HAVE BEEN PRE-PRINTED IN THE *CONGRESSIONAL RECORD*.

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House

REPUBLICAN

Conference

Amendment
Alert!

Please attach the text of the amendment (if available) and fax to the *Legislative Digest* at x5-7298

J.C. Watts, Jr.
Chairman
4th District, Oklahoma

Member Sponsoring Amendment: _____ Bill #: _____

Additional Co-sponsors (if any): _____

Staff Contact: _____ Phone #: _____ Evening Phone #: _____

Description of the amendment: _____

(Please include any additional or contextual information)

Reason for offering amendment (e.g., How will this change the bill or current law? Why should members support this change?): _____

Legislative Digest reserves the right to edit descriptions for style, readability, and provisional accuracy.

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